

NEWSLETTER

Barwon Heads Association July 2014

Next meeting
MONDAY 21st July 7.30pm.
Barwon Heads Hall

Our guests for our July meeting will be VicRoads.

Representatives from the Regional Manager VicRoads will be attending to discuss our traffic concerns and in particular treatment for the corner of Hitchcock and Bridge Roads. It is important that these safety issues be addressed before the new summer season is upon us.

Important agenda item for July meeting.

Our council is yet to decide what to do with the vacant kindergarten site and building in Clifford Pde. There are divergent opinions on what would be best for this site. There are strong voices advocating for more parking who would like to see the site become a car park. There are others who would like to see the site and building maintained as a community hub, or neighborhood house. Then there are the residents of Clifford Pde whose voices should be heard.

Barwon Heads' dangerous river road corners.

These corners are the responsibility of our local council who are now considering our requests for alterations. In particular, the corner of Carr St and Geelong Road East is poorly maintained, narrow and no longer fit for increased traffic flows. We have observed that cars travelling south and turning west into Geelong Rd East almost invariably cut the corner. It is even more dangerous with McHarry's buses, about 154 a week, generally cutting the corner to fit the bus around without going into the gravel on the shoulder. That the road width varies from 3.6 metres to 2.7 metres doesn't make it any easier for drivers. If you have had some near misses on this corner feel free to ring/write CoGG and let them know.

Further Agenda items
Mosquitoes Spraying report
Pedestrian Safety Working Group.
13th Beach Road Working Group
Setting up a Fire Guard for Barwon Heads

June Meeting report

Our guest speaker was Tehree Gordon from Jirrahlinga Koala & Wildlife Sanctuary accompanied by staff member Judy O'Brien. Tehree had many fascinating stories to tell about life at Jirrahlinga. For instance, Tehree attended a house where she'd had an emergency call claiming that there was a crocodile banging on the back door. She turned up with a smallish cage thinking the caller had a largish lizard. But no; there was a crocodile, several metres worth! Apparently a regular visitor to Barwon Heads, the pet croc had gone for a wander.

Tehree stressed that her tough and at times, traumatic family background had given her strength and clear values supported by her faith.

She grew up seeing the world very differently from many of her peers. For instance, she was attracted to aboriginal people because of their superior skills and would have loved to become a "black girl." Instead she became one of the first women rangers in the district and grew into a resource for many wanting practical information and help. She set up home help services for pets, mobile rescue and mobile grooming services. Tehree was particularly interested in educating children to give them an appreciation of the importance of animals, especially our vulnerable native wildlife.

Gradually, over time, her family's sanctuary evolved into Jirrahlinga.

(which means to seek a home for a kangaroo)

It became a self-supporting family business whose purpose is to reach out to living creatures, both animal and human. Tehree emphasized the healing social work done at Jirrahlinga where anxious, pressured people could find purpose and warmth in relating to animals. Jirrahlinga welcomes visitors and those interested to find out more about "what goes on there."

We thank Tehree and Judy for their time in sharing with us the fascinating and moving stories of life at Jirrahlinga.

More from the Barwon Heads CFA.

Officer Brett Mitchell reviewed the CFA presentation given at our May meeting. Brett stressed that Barwon Heads is not considered a high-risk area and so is not mandated to have a designated safe area like more vulnerable towns. He clarifying some of the questions asked in May and gave us contact information for setting up a Fire Guard which we will discuss at our July meeting. He also reminded us that on Sunday mornings from 9.00am visitors are welcome at the fire station in Sheepwash Rd.

**Membership renewal time for 2014-2015 is here from July 1st.
To view BHA activities, rejoin, or just browse through our website go to
www.barwonheads association.com**

Judith Brooks
For Committee
BHA

